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Item 14 of the provisional agenda
Cooperation with other international organizations

Cooperative activities with United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations that contribute to the work under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The secretariat engages in collaborative activities, initiatives and programmes with United Nations entities, convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations that enhance and contribute to the work under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The key objective of the secretariat in such engagement is to support the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in an efficient and effective manner. This document provides information on activities in which the secretariat has been involved with other intergovernmental organizations since the forty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirtieth session, requested the secretariat to prepare, before sessions at which the agenda item on cooperation with relevant international organizations is to be taken up, an information paper summarizing relevant cooperative activities.[1]

B. Background and scope

2. Article 7, paragraph 2(l), of the Convention states that the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall seek and utilize the services and cooperation of, and information provided by, competent international organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. Thus, the secretariat places great value on working with other international organizations, including United Nations entities, secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and the scientific community.

3. This document summarizes the main cooperative activities carried out by the secretariat with other international organizations since May 2017 (hereinafter referred to as the reporting period), when the previous information note on the subject,[2] prepared for SBSTA 46, was published.

C. Vision for cooperation

4. The secretariat relies on other international organizations for the provision of relevant expertise, assistance and support to Parties for the effective implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Recognizing the many interlinkages within the complex UNFCCC process and that expertise and resources – human, financial or other – might also be found in other parts of the United Nations system or in other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), the COP and the subsidiary bodies have encouraged other organizations to undertake several tasks or activities in support of their work.

5. Conversely, in recognition of the expertise and knowledge that the UNFCCC secretariat has accumulated over the years, many international organizations call upon it to contribute to climate change related discussions and policy documents. The UNFCCC secretariat is receiving and responding to an increasing number of requests from United Nations organizations and forums for advice and collaboration on issues related to climate change.

6. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which the UNFCCC is recognized as the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change,[3] has enhanced the need for closer cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system, in particular given that the Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, including the means of implementation, are universal, indivisible and interlinked.[4] Through close cooperation with United Nations entities and other international organizations, the UNFCCC secretariat can help countries to achieve the SDGs in a coherent and collaborative way.

[1] FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, paragraph 128.
[2] FCCC/SBSTA/2017/INF.2.
[3] Paragraph 31 of the Agenda.
[4] Paragraph 71 of the Agenda.

D. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

7. The SBSTA may wish to take note of the information provided in this document. It may also wish to invite Parties to provide guidance on the scope and direction of the cooperative activities presented in chapters II and III below. The SBSTA may further wish to make recommendations on key priority areas in which the secretariat should enhance efforts to leverage contributions to addressing climate change from other IGOs, and on possible approaches to undertaking such efforts, including through the establishment of partnerships.

II. Specific areas of cooperation

8. This chapter provides an overview of cooperative activities undertaken by the secretariat during the reporting period, including those specifically in support of the efforts of Parties to implement the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. It is not a comprehensive account of all activities, initiatives and programmes undertaken by the secretariat.

A. Technology

1. Implementation of the Technology Mechanism

9. Article 4, paragraph 1(c), of the Convention stipulates that all Parties are to promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in all relevant sectors. COP 16 established the Technology Mechanism to facilitate the implementation of enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support the full implementation of the Convention.[5] The Technology Mechanism consists of two components, the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), and serves the Paris Agreement.[6]

10. As the policy component of the Technology Mechanism, the TEC analyses technology policy issues and provides policy recommendations to countries to enhance climate technology development and transfer. The TEC facilitates collaboration among technology stakeholders and promotes coherence across technology activities. In supporting the work of the TEC during the reporting period, the secretariat engaged with many United Nations organizations, IGOs and non-governmental organizations.

11. During the reporting period, the secretariat supported the internal task forces of the TEC established to support the implementation of the TEC workplan for 2016–2018. The task forces included representatives of, and drew upon inputs from, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the South Centre and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

12. The secretariat organized the 14th, 15th and 16th meetings of the TEC, a special event and two in-session thematic dialogues, in which representatives of several United Nations organizations and IGOs, such as the Asian Development Bank, GCF, International Energy Agency (IEA), International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and World Bank Group, as well as non-governmental organizations participated either in person or via the live webcast and social media platforms that the secretariat managed.

13. As the implementation arm of the Technology Mechanism, the CTCN supports developing countries in implementing climate technologies. It has three core functions:

[5] Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 117.
[6] Per Article 10, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement.

(a) Providing technical assistance at the request of developing countries;

(b) Creating access to knowledge on climate technologies;

(c) Fostering collaboration among climate technology stakeholders.

14. During the reporting period, the secretariat collaborated with the CTCN and followed the work of its Advisory Board. It also continued to collaborate with UNEP and UNIDO, the host organizations of the Climate Technology Centre. The secretariat participated in CTCN regional activities for national designated entities organized by UNEP and UNIDO.

2. Technology needs assessments

15. Developing countries undertake technology needs assessments (TNAs) to identify their technology priorities for mitigating GHGs and adapting to climate change. Through TNAs, developing countries create technology action plans for the implementation of climate technologies.

16. During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to collaborate with the GEF, UNEP and the UNEP DTU Partnership[7] in phase II of the global TNA project. The project is providing financial and technical support to 26 developing countries undertaking TNAs.

17. The secretariat collaborated with the CTCN, UNEP and the UNEP DTU Partnership in supporting the TEC on TNA matters, including developing guidance on tracking the implementation of technology action plans and publicizing success stories.[8]

3. Technology facilitation mechanism

18. In paragraph 70 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the launch of a technology facilitation mechanism to support the implementation of the SDGs was announced. During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to participate in the United Nations Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. The task force is one of the components of the mechanism and involves over 30 United Nations organizations. As part of the collaboration, the secretariat participated in the high-level seminar on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology of China.

B. Climate finance

1. Cooperation with UNFCCC funds

(a) Green Climate Fund

19. COP 16 designated the GCF as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism.[9] The arrangements between the COP and the GCF state that the relevant secretariats may, as necessary and subject to the direction of the Board of the GCF and the COP, cooperate and exchange views on matters relevant to the operation of the Financial Mechanism, including the implementation of those arrangements between the COP and the GCF, coordination with other international financing channels and the participation of representatives in meetings of relevant bodies.

20. In the reporting period, the secretariat closely followed the meetings of the Board of the GCF as the Board made progress in implementing policy guidance from the COP and took funding decisions on project proposals. In turn, representatives of the GCF secretariat participated in various meetings and workshops held under the Convention, including meetings of constituted bodies, the annual forum of the Standing Committee on Finance

[7] The partnership, formerly known as the UNEP Risoe Centre, operates under a tripartite agreement between Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and UNEP.

[8] In response to a request to the TEC from the COP (decision 17/CP.20, para 13).

[9] Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 102.

(SCF), technical expert meetings on adaptation and mitigation and an in-session workshop on long-term climate finance. Furthermore, during COP 23, the Board of the GCF held the second annual meeting between the GCF and the constituted bodies under the Convention on enhancing cooperation and coherence of engagement.

(b) Global Environment Facility

21. The GEF serves as an entity entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism.[10] The memorandum of understanding between the COP and the GEF states that the relevant secretariats shall cooperate and exchange on a regular basis views and experience necessary to facilitate the effectiveness of the Financial Mechanism in assisting Parties in implementing the Convention.[11]

22. During the reporting period, the secretariat interacted regularly with the GEF secretariat through its participation in GEF Council meetings and in the context of meetings on the seventh replenishment of the GEF, as well as at the GEF regional expanded constituency workshops. The GEF secretariat actively participated in UNFCCC meetings and events, including meetings of constituted bodies under the Convention, CTCN workshops and technical expert meetings on adaptation and mitigation.

(c) Adaptation Fund

23. The secretariat continued to interact with the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) secretariat during the reporting period. It participated in the meetings of the AFB, at which it discussed the relevant decisions taken at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris that might affect the Adaptation Fund.

24. The AFB secretariat in turn participated in meetings of constituted bodies under the Convention, including the SCF. It also interacted with the Adaptation Committee (AC) on matters related to adaptation finance, especially on financing for national adaptation plans (NAPs) in developing countries.

25. With regard to the issue of possible future institutional linkages and relations between the Adaptation Fund and other bodies under the Convention, the secretariat and the AFB secretariat continued to provide mutual advice from the legal perspective and operational standpoint, respectively, of the Adaptation Fund.

2. Cooperation through the work of the Standing Committee on Finance

26. The secretariat supports the work of the SCF, including in relation to collaboration and concrete outreach activities with IGOs and other interested stakeholders, and developing and implementing the activity-based communication strategy of the SCF. All meetings of the SCF are webcast. An official notification is issued on the UNFCCC website informing admitted IGOs about the possibility of attending the SCF meetings,[12] and personalized invitation letters are sent to representatives of IGOs for each meeting of the SCF.[13]

27. In supporting the organization of the 5th SCF Forum, held on 6 and 7 September 2017 in Rabat, Morocco, on the topic of mobilizing finance for climate-resilient infrastructure, the secretariat collaborated with several United Nations organizations and IGOs. The secretariat collaborated with key partners and supporters, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and Union for the Mediterranean on the substantive and logistical organization of the event.[14] The secretariat

[10] Decision 3/CP.4, paragraph 1.

[11] Decision 12/CP.2, annex, paragraph 10.

[12] See http://unfccc.int/3153.php.

[13] Further information on the meetings of the SCF, including webcasts and lists of participants, is available at http://unfccc.int/6881.php.

[14] The Forum was hosted by the Government of Morocco and held in partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, with contributions from the Government of the Netherlands, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Further information on the 2017 SCF Forum, including the summary report, programme, list of

maintained close interaction and collaboration with partners and supporters as well as a number of additional resource persons from United Nations organizations and IGOs, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the AFB secretariat, throughout the preparations and the event itself. Supporting the aim of the SCF to enhance its forum-related outreach activities, the secretariat produced a short video on the 2017 SCF Forum that captures views of participants, including representatives of the above-mentioned partner and supporting organizations, and highlights some of the key outcomes of the event. The video was shown during the global climate action closing event and Momentum for Change showcase event at COP 23.[15]

28. The secretariat will continue to facilitate the engagement of the SCF with a wide variety of climate finance stakeholders, including United Nations organizations and IGOs, in organizing the 2018 SCF Forum, once the topic and scope of the event have been agreed on.

29. Furthermore, the SCF, with the support of the secretariat, closely collaborates with climate finance stakeholders specializing in measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of support. Various international financial institutions and other IGOs involved in the tracking and reporting of climate finance, including but not limited to multilateral development banks, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), networks of private financial institutions, the International Development Finance Club and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, have contributed to the ongoing preparations for the 2018 biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows of the SCF. The external contributors provided data on climate finance flows as well as expert input during the first technical meeting on the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows.[16]

3. Cooperation through the in-session workshop on long-term climate finance

30. In organizing the 2017 in-session workshop on long-term climate finance, held on 15 May 2017 in Bonn, Germany, the secretariat cooperated with a wide range of climate finance experts from governments, United Nations organizations, IGOs, the private sector and civil society.[17] Representatives of United Nations organizations and IGOs, including the UNEP DTU Partnership, Inter-American Development Bank, AFB secretariat and International Chamber of Commerce, participated as speakers and resource persons at the event. Following the workshop, a summary report[18] was prepared for consideration by the COP and to inform the third biennial high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance, to be convened at COP 24 in accordance with decision 3/CP.19. In addition, the secretariat prepared and distributed a shorter summary note to facilitate the dissemination of the workshop outcomes to a wider group of stakeholders.[19]

C. Capacity-building

1. Cooperation in relation to the framework for capacity-building in developing countries

31. In accordance with decisions 2/CP.7 and 29/CMP.1, the secretariat collaborates with a number of IGOs to collect and compile the information needed by the COP, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the subsidiary bodies to annually monitor progress in the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7. The information submitted by the above-mentioned organizations is uploaded to the capacity-building

speakers and presentations, is available at http://unfccc.int/10368.php.

[15] The video is available at http://unfccc.int/10368.php.

[16] More information is available at https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/resources/biennial-assessment-of-climate-finance.

[17] More information is available at https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/events-meetings/ltf-meetings/long-term-climate-finance-events-in-2017.

[18] FCCC/CP/2017/4.

[19] Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/ltf_2017_short_summary_note.pdf.

portal,[20] a web-based platform that, through an interactive world map, enables external users to search for, identify and download capacity-building information submitted since 2008 by United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and related organizations.

2. Cooperation through the Durban Forum on capacity-building

32. COP 17 requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to further enhance the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of capacity-building by organizing an annual in-session Durban Forum for in-depth discussion on capacity-building.[21] Representatives of IGOs specialized in areas considered at the annual meetings of the Durban Forum are invited to contribute to the in-depth discussions and cooperate with the secretariat in organizing their interventions. The 6th Durban Forum took place in Bonn on 10 May 2017 in conjunction with SBI 46.[22] The focus of the meeting was on how to enhance capacities for adaptation in the context of NAPs and nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Representatives of IGOs contributed to the discussions and delivered presentations on:

(a) Enhancing human, institutional and systemic capacities to design adaptation interventions in the context of NAPs and NDCs;

(b) Enhancing capacity to access finance for adaptation;

(c) Strengthening the engagement of non-Party stakeholders in supporting capacity-building needed in the context of NAPs and NDCs.

D. Action for Climate Empowerment

1. United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness

33. The United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness (UN Alliance) aims to support Parties in their efforts to initiate and undertake activities related to the implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE). The secretariat organized a meeting of the UN Alliance held on 3 April 2017 in Bonn, to discuss how to best support Parties in their efforts to implement the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement. In addition, the secretariat, in partnership with Fiji and UN Alliance members, organized Education Day, held at COP 23 on 16 November 2017. During Education Day, the UN Alliance hosted a high-level event called "Uniting for climate education – further, faster, together through partnerships", which brought together ministers, international organizations and non-Party stakeholders.

2. Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development

34. The Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development aims to generate and scale up action at all levels, and in all areas, of education and learning to accelerate progress towards sustainable development. It established five partner networks: policy support; whole-institution approaches; educators; youth; and local communities. The secretariat participated in the programme review forum organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), held from 6 to 8 March 2017 in Ottawa, Canada. The event provided a platform to discuss the central role of teachers and teacher training as well as the practical aspects and implementation of education for sustainable development in achieving target 4.7 of SDG 4 on education.

3. Action for Climate Empowerment guidelines

35. In 2017, UNESCO, in partnership with the secretariat, translated into French a publication titled *Action for Climate Empowerment: Guidelines for Accelerating Solutions*

[20] http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/capacity_building/items/7204.php

[21] Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 144.

[22] See https://unfccc.int/event/durban-forum-on-capacity-building-6th-meeting.

through Education, Training and Public Awareness.[23] The publication is intended to facilitate the work of ACE national focal points in implementing the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention. Furthermore, the Centre for Environment Education, in partnership with the secretariat and UNESCO, prepared a publication titled *Good Practice in Action for Climate Empowerment: A Compilation and Analysis of Case Studies*,[24] a compilation of good practices and analysis of how education leads to action that involves people in adapting and contributing to climate change mitigation. The publication was officially launched at Education Day at COP 23.

4. 5th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment

36. The secretariat organized the 5th ACE Dialogue, held on 15 and 16 May 2017 during SBI 46, in collaboration with United Nations entities. The main objective of the Dialogue is to provide a regular forum for Parties and other stakeholders to share their experience, good practices and lessons learned and exchange ideas regarding the implementation of ACE. The 5th Dialogue was organized in two sessions, focusing on education and training, with international cooperation as a cross-cutting theme. Representatives of the UN Alliance provided technical support and moderated working group discussions. The secretariat published a summary report on the 5th Dialogue.[25]

5. Youth and climate change

37. The secretariat works together with United Nations entities and youth organizations to mobilize active and meaningful youth participation in the climate change process. The secretariat worked closely with the Government of Morocco, the United Nations Children's Fund, the GEF Small Grants Programme and the city of New York to hold a high-level event on climate education and youth on 20 September 2017 during Climate Week NYC. In addition, the secretariat, in partnership with Fiji, youth organizations, United Nations agencies and development partners, organized Young and Future Generations Day, held on 9 November 2017 during COP 23, showcasing the power of young people to act as key players in realizing innovative and ambitious climate change solutions. Furthermore, to shine a light on existing climate change actions undertaken by youth, the secretariat, in partnership with the GEF Small Grants Programme, Television for the Environment and Connect4Climate, organized the third Global Youth Video Competition on climate change. Two participants were selected as the winners of the 2017 competition out of 247 videos submitted by participants from 94 countries.

6. One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership

38. The secretariat continues its close engagement with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research with regard to advancing the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn), a cooperative initiative of 35 multilateral organizations. UN CC:Learn supports governments, United Nations agencies and other development partners in designing and implementing results-oriented and sustainable learning to address climate change. In addition, UN CC:Learn hosts the primary e-learning platform on climate change, which is currently available in six languages. UN CC:Learn is a tool that contributes directly to the implementation of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention. The secretariat, in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, co-hosted the 7th UN CC:Learn Steering Group meeting, which took place on 4 April 2017 in Bonn.

[23] Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/action_for_climate_empowerment_guidelines.pdf.

[24] Available at http://www.ceeindia.org/cee/Good-Practice-in-Action-for-Climate-Empowerment-A-compilation-and-analysis-of-case-studies.htm.

[25] FCCC/SBI/2017/10.

E. Adaptation

1. Adaptation and loss and damage

39. The secretariat collaborates with many IGOs and United Nations organizations in supporting adaptation activities, including through the work of the AC, promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks. The secretariat engages with a wide range of organizations in support of the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), including the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action. Furthermore, the secretariat supports the work under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, the process to formulate and implement NAPs and the work under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP). The secretariat cooperates with specific IGOs, including the GEF, the IPCC, the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), UNDP, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization for Migration, UNESCO and the World Bank.

2. Adaptation Committee

40. The AC is the advisory body of the COP on adaptation to climate change. It seeks to promote greater coherence in the way that adaptation is addressed by all countries and to raise the profile of adaptation. The secretariat supports the work of the AC, including working with all IGOs involved in adaptation activities. Specific activities carried out during the reporting period include the following:

(a) In the context of its efforts to strengthen engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, the AC invited the secretariat team supporting the NWP, in collaboration with the CTCN, to prepare an overview of the landscape of existing platforms providing technical support on adaptation, including gaps. At its 12th meeting, the AC welcomed the results of the work and requested the secretariat to make the document, along with the overview referred to in its annex 2, available on the adaptation knowledge portal, if possible in a user-friendly format. It invited representatives of other existing platforms that were not included in the overview but that meet the established criteria to contact the secretariat to be included therein. The AC also invited the organizations listed in the mapping to regularly update the information provided in the overview, and requested the secretariat, NWP partner organizations and the CTCN to widely promote the overview. The secretariat is currently in the process of making the overview available as a user-friendly database on the adaptation knowledge portal, and a joint communication strategy is being developed with the CTCN secretariat to widely promote the product;

(b) The AC conducted a second year of the technical examination process on adaptation, with the objective of identifying concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation action. The process includes annual technical expert meetings on adaptation, bringing together a broad group of stakeholders, including United Nations organizations and IGOs, to discuss policies, actions, concrete opportunities for action and implementation. The 2017 technical expert meeting on the topic of integrating climate change adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 provided a platform for aligning sustainable development and disaster risk reduction with adaptation efforts under the UNFCCC. The discussions held at the meetings, as well as information relevant to the topic for the year, are reflected in an annual technical paper prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the AC.[26] The AC agreed on the topic of adaptation planning for vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems for 2018;

[26] See document FCCC/TP/2017/3.

(c) The AC accepted an invitation from the UNEP Global Adaptation Network to participate in the 2nd Global Adaptation Network Forum, which took place in March 2018. It addressed some of the most pressing challenges for adaptation and provided an opportunity for decision makers, policy experts and practitioners to share knowledge and experience on how to address these challenges. It was structured around four main themes: (1) from the Gulf to the world; (2) adaptation metrics; (3) adaptation learning; and (4) reaching the most vulnerable. Under the fourth theme, the Forum included a regional technical expert meeting, convening a group of experts to address ways to ensure that adaptation action reaches the most vulnerable people, communities and ecosystems, the outputs of which will serve as input to technical examination process on adaptation;

(d) The AC held an informal expert meeting on assessing adaptation needs on the margins of the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies to collect further input in response to the mandate contained in decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 42. The meeting was attended by experts, including from the AC, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), the GCF, the GEF, the LEG, the Stockholm Environment Institute, UNDP and UNEP. On the basis of the discussions at the expert meeting and further consideration by the AC, it agreed on recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, which are contained in the 2017 report of the AC to the COP.[27]

41. All AC meetings are open to observers, including IGOs. Observers have been invited to provide general statements at the opening and closing of meetings, to provide concrete suggestions during the discussions on specific agenda items and to actively participate in the work of breakout groups. Such active engagement of observers and the possibility of feeding additional experience and expertise into the discussions were deemed to be beneficial for furthering the work of the AC and its quest for synergy.

3. Least Developed Countries Expert Group

42. The secretariat continues to facilitate the work of the LEG through collaboration with various organizations, regional centres and networks, consistent with the relevant mandates of the LEG.[28] Specific activities of the secretariat in relation to the LEG during the reporting period include:

(a) Interacting with the GCF to consider how to best support the least developed country (LDC) Parties in accessing funding from the GCF for the formulation and implementation of NAPs. The GCF secretariat continues to engage in the LEG regional training workshops on NAPs;

(b) Inviting the GEF and its agencies to the meetings of the LEG to continue to explore issues faced by LDC Parties related to accessing funds from the Least Developed Countries Fund and to explore further collaboration to support the work of the LEG;

(c) Engaging relevant organizations, regional centres and networks in designing and conducting regional training workshops on NAPs;

(d) Involving the GCF, the GEF and its agencies, United Nations organizations, international organizations and agencies, and regional centres and networks in the NAP Expos;

(e) Inviting regional centres and networks to nominate one focal point each for the LEG, in accordance with decision 19/CP.21, paragraph 10, to assist in addressing gaps in and needs for adaptation in the LDCs, such as data gaps, regional downscaling of climate change scenarios, and GCF readiness support.

[27] FCCC/SB/2017/2.

[28] Decisions 8/CP.13, paragraphs 2 and 5; 6/CP.16, paragraph 5; 12/CP.18, paragraphs 7 and 8; 4/CP.21, paragraph 10; and 19/CP.21, paragraphs 2(c), 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11.

4. Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

43. The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism guides the implementation of the functions of the mechanism.[29] One of the functions is to strengthen dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders, including by fostering dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among all relevant institutions, bodies, processes and initiatives outside the Convention with a view to promoting cooperation and collaboration across relevant work and activities at all levels.[30]

44. The Executive Committee engages and collaborates with relevant organizations and expert bodies through the implementation of its workplan[31] and in the operationalization of the mandates contained in decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 48 and 49. The secretariat supports the Executive Committee, including by working with United Nations entities, IGOs and others involved in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. Specific activities carried out during the reporting period include the following:

(a) The Executive Committee operationalized the task force on displacement, which directly engages experts from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration, Platform on Disaster Displacement, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNDP and civil society. The first meeting of the task force on displacement was held in Bonn on 18 and 19 May 2017 to develop its workplan with a view to developing recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change. The Executive Committee endorsed the workplan of the task force, and various organizations are leading or co-leading the implementation of activities in the workplan. At the 6th and 7th meetings of the Executive Committee, the task force reported on its progress;[32]

(b) The Executive Committee organized a side event at the forty-seventh sessions of the subsidiary bodies to facilitate insightful thinking on features of financial instruments and innovative ways for collaboration and partnerships to enhance action and support for addressing the risk of slow onset events. UNCCD and the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme participated on the panel alongside representatives of other organizations. Many representatives of United Nations entities and IGOs attended the event and took part in the awareness-raising campaign organized by the Executive Committee in the lead-up to the side event.[33]

45. With a view to promoting cooperation and collaboration across relevant work and activities at all levels, the Executive Committee invited, during the reporting period, organizations to share their views and input on:

(a) Capacity gaps in addressing loss and damage and ways to address the gaps;[34]

(b) The type and nature of actions to address loss and damage for which finance may be required.[35] The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Food Programme, along with eight other organizations and 10 Parties or groups of Parties, made

[29] See decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5.

[30] In accordance with decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(b).

[31] All relevant information is available at https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/approaches-to-address-loss-and-damage-associated-with-climate-change-impacts-in-developing-countries.

[32] See https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/sub-groups/task-force-on-displacement.

[33] See https://unfccc.int/node/27700.

[34] All relevant information is available at https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/approaches-to-address-loss-and-damage-associated-with-climate-change-impacts-in-developing-countries.

[35] See https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/groups-committees/loss-and-damage-executive-committee/submissions-on-the-type-and-nature-of-actions-to-address-loss-and-damage-for-which-finance-may-be.

submissions in response to this invitation. The inputs were considered at the 7th meeting of the Executive Committee in its work to develop a set of guidelines on the organization of the Suva expert dialogue, to take place during the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies;

(c) The draft compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches. The compendium was updated with the inputs and is envisioned to enhance the understanding of, and promote, comprehensive risk management approaches (assessment, reduction, transfer, retention), including social protection instruments and transformational approaches, in building the long-term resilience of countries, vulnerable populations and communities;

(d) Climate risk analysis and management.[36] Views were provided by eight organizations, including five in the United Nations system, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Organization for Migration, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNISDR and WHO;

(e) The content, design and use of the clearing house for risk transfer, whose establishment was mandated at COP 21.[37] Taking into account the views provided, the Executive Committee developed the clearing house, in collaboration with relevant organizations. It was launched at COP 23 and named the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer.

46. The Executive Committee also has a standing invitation for relevant organizations to provide input, information and updates on:

(a) Best practices, challenges and lessons learned in relation to existing financial instruments at all levels that address the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;[38]

(b) The scope of current efforts undertaken to address slow onset events associated with climate change impacts.[39]

47. All meetings of the Executive Committee are open to observers. During the reporting period, the 6th (11–13 October 2017)[40] and 7th (13–16 March 2018)[41] meetings of the Executive Committee took place with the active participation of a broad range of expert observers from United Nations agencies, IGOs and non-governmental organizations, including the private sector, especially those working in areas related to risk financing, comprehensive risk management, humanitarian assistance and human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation.

48. At the meetings, observers actively engaged in providing concrete suggestions based on their specific expertise and experience during the deliberations in both plenary and parallel working group settings. Such active engagement of observers was highly appreciated by the Executive Committee and deemed to be beneficial to developing its five-year rolling workplan and furthering its technical work and quest for synergy and coherent cooperative action at the international level.

5. National adaptation plans

49. The secretariat's cooperation with various organizations continues to contribute to the evolution of action and the provision of support to developing countries for the formulation and implementation of NAPs. Specific activities of the secretariat include:

(a) Facilitating the engagement of a wide range of organizations in supporting the LEG in providing technical guidance and support to the LDCs, and collaborating with the

[36] See https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/areas-of-work/comprehensive-risk-management-approaches

[37] Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 48.

[38] See https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/submission-of-information-on-financial-instruments

[39] See https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/areas-of-work/slow-onset-events

[40] See https://unfccc.int/node/9989

[41] See https://unfccc.int/node/39764

GCF and the GEF and its agencies on designing support in response to mandates from the COP;

(b) Engaging, through the NAP technical working group, various organizations, including those developing supplements to the technical guidelines for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, in developing and harmonizing technical material in support of NAPs;

(c) Mobilizing United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and regional networks and centres to contribute to the design and implementation of NAP Central.[42]

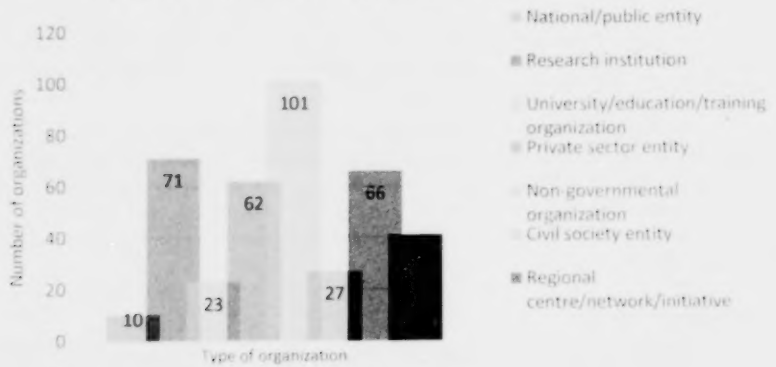
50. Furthermore, the secretariat is among the partners of the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme,[43] established in response to an invitation of the COP,[44] which is aimed at supporting the LDCs through the brokering of knowledge, institutional support and technical support for advancing their NAPs.

6. Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

51. The NWP contributes to advancing adaptation action through knowledge by providing knowledge support to Parties, in particular developing countries, and to constituted bodies (e.g. the AC and the LEG) in the following four areas of work: (1) engaging a growing network of non-Party stakeholders in sharing their experience and expertise; (2) synthesizing the latest information and capturing knowledge on key adaptation issues; (3) fostering science-policy-practice collaboration to close knowledge gaps; and (4) disseminating knowledge and fostering learning to boost adaptation action at all levels.

52. NWP partner organizations encompass a broad spectrum of expertise, experience and knowledge and play an important role in the implementation of activities under the NWP. Since its inception, the NWP has engaged over 350 partners, including 22 IGOs and 41 United Nations and affiliated organizations (see the figure below).[45]

Nairobi work programme partners by organization type



Note: See http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/Search.aspx.

53. United Nations system organizations and IGOs are critical in supporting the evolving work of the NWP, which aims to enhance collaboration with global and regional knowledge networks and NWP partners to strengthen the development, dissemination and use of knowledge on adaptation, and invite regional centres and networks to serve as regional knowledge platforms for the implementation of activities under the NWP.

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[42] FCCC/SBI/2015/19, paragraph 32.

[43] See http://www.undp-alm.org/projects/naps-ldcs.

[44] Decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 23.

[45] A list of partners is available at http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/Search.aspx.

(a) Collaborative activities under the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative

54. In September 2017, the NWP and UNEP, in collaboration with the subregional coordination entity Bibliotheca Alexandria, delivered the sixth Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI) priority-setting workshop in Alexandria, Egypt. LAKI is a joint action pledge under the NWP between the secretariat and UNEP to address knowledge barriers to climate adaptation actions.

55. The workshop marked the successful conclusion of LAKI phase I. The six LAKI priority-setting workshops (in 2014–2017) engaged stakeholders from six subregions and a total of 85 priority knowledge gaps were identified, covering 38 countries, including 3 small island developing States, 11 LDCs and 13 African States.

56. In November 2017, the NWP and UNEP co-convened a LAKI side event during COP 23 to share the outcomes of LAKI phase I and discuss LAKI phase II. The event engaged a panel of experts representing the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Stockholm Environment Institute, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, and the GCF. The panellists acknowledged the importance of LAKI and discussed opportunities and challenges in closing knowledge gaps and scaling up LAKI.

57. The NWP and UNEP are currently working with partners, including the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Global Development Network and the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative, to catalyse actions to bridge the LAKI priority knowledge gaps and implement LAKI in new subregions across the world.

(b) Collaborative activities in specific thematic areas

58. The NWP engages diverse stakeholders, including United Nations entities and IGOs, in specific thematic work in responding to the adaptation knowledge needs of Parties and those arising from the implementation of workstreams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. In November 2017, the NWP and its partner organizations, including UNISDR and UN-Habitat, co-convened a technical dialogue on human settlements prior to COP 23 to complement the annual NWP Focal Point Forum.

59. The 11th NWP Focal Point Forum, on human settlements and adaptation, brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives of UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to discuss how to scale up climate adaptation action for human settlements. SBSTA 47 welcomed the outcomes of the technical dialogue and the Forum[46] for their contribution to enhancing expert engagement, including experts from developing countries, providing an interactive space for information-sharing, and facilitating collaboration and partnership among NWP partner organizations, Parties and other relevant organizations.

60. In an effort to better integrate human settlements into national climate adaptation actions, UN-Habitat agreed to collaborate with the LEG and other interested groups to develop a supplement to the NAP guidelines on advancing the integration of human settlements into national adaptation planning and implementation. The NWP and UN-Habitat are also exploring opportunities to jointly develop a knowledge product based on a report on adaptation in human settlements prepared under the NWP.[47]

(c) Collaborative activities through calls for submissions and the adaptation knowledge portal

61. The NWP engages United Nations entities and IGOs on an ongoing basis through its calls for submissions and the adaptation knowledge portal.[48] In 2017, at the request of SBSTA 44,[49] calls for submissions were launched on topics including human settlements and

[46] FCCC/SBSTA/2017/7, paragraphs 19 and 20.
[47] FCCC/SBSTA/2018/3.
[48] http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/Search.aspx.
[49] FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 15(b)(ii).

adaptation, economic diversification, and indicators of adaptation and resilience. Knowledge contributions were received from UNDP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the GEF, UNHCR, WMO, FAO, UNISDR, UN-Habitat and the United Nations University, among other organizations. The adaptation knowledge portal, with the active participation of NWP partner organizations and other relevant entities, provides easy access to over 360 case studies and 311 tools and methods.

7. Local communities and indigenous peoples platform

62. COP 21 established the local communities and indigenous peoples platform.[50] COP 22[51] and COP 23[52] further operationalized the platform.

63. At the request of COP 22,[53] in May 2017 the Chair of the SBSTA and a representative of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change co-moderated a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the operationalization of the platform. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit their views on the purpose, content and structure of the platform. Representatives of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, UNESCO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, ILO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNHCR, among other organizations, participated in the dialogue in person and through submissions. The secretariat will continue such collaboration in order to fully operationalize the platform and achieve the purposes of: (1) strengthening the knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change; (2) facilitating the exchange of experience and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner; and (3) enhancing the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process.

F. Mitigation

1. Supporting the implementation of nationally determined contributions and REDD-plus[54]

(a) Nationally determined contributions

64. In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions. Further, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement, Parties shall communicate an NDC every five years.

65. Following the success of the dialogues on intended nationally determined contributions organized by the secretariat prior to the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the secretariat, in cooperation with UNDP, is organizing regional NDC dialogues. The regional dialogues have established themselves as one of the main forums for exchanging experience, views and lessons learned relating to first steps towards NDC implementation. As with dialogues that took place in the previous reporting period, the initiative has provided a platform for discussions on sup The secretariat has continued its support activities port and exchanges among bilateral and multilateral donors. The initiative has also provided a space for representatives of planning, finance and/or environment ministries to discuss technical and political aspects of NDC implementation.

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[50] FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, paragraph 135.

[51] FCCC/CP/2016/10, paragraphs 167 and 168.

[52] Decision 2/CP.23.

[53] FCCC/CP/2016/10, paragraph 167(b).

[54] In decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, the COP encourages developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities: reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

66. The following three regional NDC dialogues were organized during the reporting period:

(a) Regional NDC dialogue for Eurasia, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 21 to 23 February 2017;

(b) Regional NDC dialogue for Latin America, held in Quito, Ecuador, from 30 August to 1 September 2017;

(c) Regional NDC dialogue for Africa, held in Rabat, Morocco, from 26 to 28 September 2017;

67. The secretariat, together with UNDP, will continue this initiative. A new round of four or five regional NDC dialogues is planned for 2018, starting with a regional NDC dialogue for the Pacific region.

68. The secretariat has taken an active role in the activities of the NDC Partnership, which is a coalition of governments and international institutions supporting developing countries in implementing their NDCs and achieving the SDGs. The secretariat has been engaged in setting up the support unit and in developing knowledge platforms. It is hosting parts of the NDC Partnership's support unit at the seat of the secretariat in Bonn.

(b) Nationally appropriate mitigation actions

69. Pursuant to decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 48, developing countries are to implement nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, aimed at achieving a deviation from 'business as usual' emissions by 2020.

70. The secretariat has continued its support activities[55] on NAMAs through cooperation with a number of international organizations. During the reporting period, the secretariat, in cooperation with partners,[56] advanced its support and cooperation activities, such as producing technical material on various aspects of mitigation, including:

(a) The *Compendium on Greenhouse Gas Baselines and Monitoring: Passenger and Freight Transport*.[57] The secretariat was actively involved in communication and outreach activities to further disseminate the compendium among developing countries;

(b) The *Compendium on Greenhouse Gas Baselines and Monitoring: National-level Mitigation Actions*.[58] The publication was produced to support countries in assessing emission reductions from national-level mitigation actions and to provide an overview of the main approaches to developing baseline and mitigation scenarios at the national level; and

(c) The *Compendium on Greenhouse Gas Baselines and Monitoring: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use* (under development).

(c) REDD-plus

71. The secretariat has participated in and contributed to several forest-related activities with other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, either jointly as a member of the Partnership or through collaboration with individual members of the Partnership.[59] The secretariat is also an observer on the Policy Board of the United Nations

[55] As requested in decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 23.

[56] The partners include the World Bank, the World Resources Institute, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Renewable Energy Agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Fundación Torcuato Di Tella and the Swedish Energy Agency.

[57] Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Transport_0.pdf.

[58] Available at http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/cge/application/pdf/final-compendium-mitigation-actions.pdf.

[59] The partner organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are the Center for International Forestry Research, CBD, FAO, the GEF, the International Tropical Timber Organization, IUCN, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the UNCCD and UNFCCC secretariats, UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the World Agroforestry Centre and the World

Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries and collaborates closely with its partner agencies. Furthermore, the secretariat continues to follow, as an observer, the work related to REDD-plus of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the Forest Investment Program under the Strategic Climate Fund of the World Bank.

72. The secretariat continues to support the activities of all Parties by maintaining a REDD-plus web platform,[60] which contains information from Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders.[61] The platform also includes the Lima REDD-plus information hub with information on REDD-plus results, including the results for which payments were received.[62]

2. Cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization

73. The secretariat collaborates closely with the secretariats of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)[63] in order to address emissions from international aviation and maritime transport.

74. The secretariat holds observer status in relation to both organizations and regularly participates in meetings of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection under ICAO and the Marine Environment Protection Committee under IMO. During such meetings, the secretariat informs Parties on relevant developments under the UNFCCC by providing oral and written statements and by engaging directly with Parties if requested. Furthermore, the secretariat works collaboratively with the secretariats of ICAO and IMO on relevant issues. In the context of the work of ICAO and IMO to address GHG emissions from international aviation and maritime transport, respectively, the secretariat participates in technical working groups addressing climate-relevant matters under both bodies. The secretariat is also actively contributing to the work of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection and its Global Market-based Measure Technical Task Force, specifically on the development of MRV, a registry system and criteria for emission units.

75. The secretariat is collaborating with ICAO by participating in the work of its technical expert groups related to the implementation of ICAO Assembly resolution A39-3,[64] by which the Assembly decided to implement a global market-based measure scheme in the form of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation. The measure aims to address any annual increase in total carbon dioxide emissions from international civil aviation (i.e. civil aviation flights that depart one country and arrive at another) above the 2020 level, taking into account the special circumstances and respective capabilities of countries.

76. In response to a recurring invitation of the SBSTA, the secretariats of ICAO and IMO continuously report on their actions to address GHG emissions from international aviation and maritime transport to the SBSTA under its agenda item on emissions from fuel used for international aviation and maritime transport. The SBSTA regularly takes note of the reports and their activities and results. In addition, the secretariat organized jointly with the ICAO and IMO secretariats a special event during SBSTA 47 where the organizations presented their progress in elaborating the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation and the comprehensive IMO strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships.

3. Collaboration with the International Energy Agency

77. The secretariat collaborates closely with IEA on a number of issues in relation to energy and climate change. A highlight in 2017 was its collaboration with IEA on the preparation of the IEA *World Energy Outlook 2017* by providing input to and comments on

Bank.

[60] http://redd.unfccc.int/.

[61] See decision 2/CP.13, paragraph 10.

[62] See decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 19.

[63] Decision 18/CP.5, paragraph 3.

[64] Available at http://www.icao.int/Meetings/a39/Documents/Resolutions/a39_res_prov_en.pdf.

drafts of the outlook. The secretariat and IEA have regular exchanges in relation to energy-related issues, including on data, projections and policies.

78. Furthermore, the secretariat cooperates with IEA on an annual basis in the context of data analysis and support for the review of national GHG inventory submissions from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention. In 2017, particular focus was accorded to enhancing cooperation between IEA and the secretariat as well as to renewing the legal cooperation arrangements between them. The secretariat has continued discussing with IEA how to expand their cooperation with the aim of better supporting the UNFCCC review process and the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

79. In addition, the secretariat has initiated collaboration with IEA with a view to using data on the cost and efficiency of technology for the purpose of setting country-specific standardized baselines.

4. Collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme

80. The secretariat has traditionally worked closely with UNEP on numerous projects and topics related to the provision of technical advice and support to developing countries for building in-country capacity for effective participation in the UNFCCC process. To increase coherence and facilitate the provision of strategic guidance on various streams of collaboration, the institutions signed, on 4 December 2017, a framework memorandum of understanding, which identifies the following areas for collaboration over the next four years:

(a) Communication campaigns that improve understanding of and motivate action on climate change and sustainable development priorities;

(b) Strengthening climate change leadership and engagement at the global, regional and national level;

(c) Strengthening capacity-building at the regional and national level;

(d) Delivery at scale on priority areas identified in NDCs and NAPs, with emphasis on public–private partnerships, including those involving the finance sector;

(e) Research and gathering of evidence to support climate policymaking and climate-smart investment, in particular through science, data, information and knowledge;

(f) Developing and implementing standards for exchanging and harvesting knowledge and information;

(g) Supporting climate and SDG-aligned finance and investment action at the national and local level in the context of sustainable development.

81. In addition, in the reporting period, the secretariat and UNEP continued their collaboration on the UNEP emissions gap and adaptation gap reports.

5. Collaboration related to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

82. The secretariat collaborates on a regular basis with the secretariat for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on addressing ozone-depleting substances that have high global warming potential. The secretariats closely coordinate relevant work and participate regularly in each other's meetings, thereby exchanging expertise and knowledge, particularly in following up on the adoption of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.[65] In particular, there have been several exchanges on how experience with the clean development mechanism (CDM) could be used in assessing hydrofluorocarbon projects under the Montreal Protocol.

[65] See http://conf.montreal-protocol.org/meeting/mop/mop-28/final-report/English/Kigali_Amendment-English.pdf

6. Collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

83. The secretariat is engaged in close long-term collaboration with FAO, providing joint technical support and expertise to countries on matters relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture, forestry and other land-use sector. FAO, as an implementing agency, contributes technical input to the UNFCCC policymaking process based on its experience from direct work with member countries. The secretariat contributes to the work of FAO on climate change by providing guidance on the UNFCCC policymaking process as well as through collaboration at the technical level, including sharing data and information submitted by Parties. The collaboration aims at enhancing countries' capacity to integrate adaptation, mitigation and the SDGs into activities undertaken in the agriculture, forestry and other land-use sector, including their NDCs. These joint activities facilitate the implementation of the Paris Agreement and advance the Global Climate Action Agenda.[66]

7. Collaboration with the International Labour Organization on a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work

84. The secretariat and ILO agreed to collaborate on matters related to a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work in 2016. Just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs is one of the areas in the work programmes of the improved forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures.[67] In 2017, the secretariat and ILO organized: a side event, "Greening with jobs: decent work and just transition in the Paris Agreement",[68] held on 10 May 2017 in Bonn; the 1st Global Forum on Just Transition, held on 5 December 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland; the 3rd Conference of the Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network, held on 6 and 7 December 2017 in Geneva; and an awareness creation workshop to maximize the positive and minimize the negative impacts of the implementation of response measures, held from 5 to 8 March 2018 in Bahrain.

85. The Global Forum on Just Transition enabled countries to share national experience and policy approaches to advancing a just transition for all in the context of action against climate change. The Forum helped to pave the way for the establishment of a global coalition on just transition.[69] The climate change negotiators on response measures benefited from their participation in a Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network workshop on understanding both positive and negative social and employment-related outcomes of green economy and climate change policies through quantitative and qualitative focused international research.[70] ILO provided substantial support to the awareness creation workshop in the form of presentations made by ILO representatives. ILO also provided financial support to climate change negotiators on response measures to participate in a training session on promoting a just transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development, which was organized by the International Training Centre of the ILO from 29 May to 2 June 2017.

86. The secretariat and ILO plan to contribute regularly to each other's work with common objectives, including capacity-building and sharing information and expertise related to a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work, and plan to extend their collaboration to the area of economic diversification.

8. Collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

87. In 2017, the secretariat collaborated with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to put on a joint event on economic diversification, just transition of the workforce and global value chains in the context of sustainable development during the forty-seventh sessions of the subsidiary bodies, which highlighted the linkages between trade and climate change and how related issues can be addressed.

[66] See http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9983.php.
[67] See decision 11/CP.21.
[68] See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LRdyDxgWOU.
[69] See http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/publications/WCMS_617967/lang--en/index.htm.
[70] See http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/areas-of-work/WCMS_565193/lang--en/index.htm.

9. Collaboration with the World Bank on the use of the clean development mechanism beyond the Kyoto Protocol

88. The secretariat has developed a fruitful collaboration with the World Bank on the use of the CDM for the results-based financing of mitigation activities. Mechanisms such as the Carbon Initiative for Development and the Pilot Auction Facility for Methane and Climate Change Mitigation use the CDM infrastructure to evaluate the impact of the mitigation activities that they incentivize.

89. The World Bank is aiming to report the aggregate ex ante net GHG emissions from its investment lending projects in key sectors. For that purpose, it is engaging with the secretariat to conduct a review of its ex ante GHG accounting methodologies (for energy, forestry, agriculture, transport, water and urban) and obtain feedback on their level of robustness and usability.

90. The World Bank is the trustee and one of the implementing agencies of the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) – one of the two Climate Investment Funds. CTF conducts GHG accounting and reporting on its portfolio, applying the methodologies of the respective implementing agencies. Therefore, CTF has experience of how GHG accounting works if different methodologies (that follow agreed common principles) are applied. The World Bank is engaging with the secretariat to review the methodologies applied and obtain feedback on opportunities for harmonizing GHG accounting methodologies across the implementing agencies of CTF (Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Development Bank and International Finance Corporation).

10. Collaboration with the technical working group of international financial institution

91. Since 2012, international financial institutions, including multilateral development banks, have come together to form a technical working group to harmonize approaches for GHG accounting. This working group, currently with over 30 members, has made critical progress in the past few years in developing harmonized methodologies for renewable energy, energy efficiency and transport. The secretariat is participating in the meetings of the working group and providing input on technical issues, identifying priority areas to enhance collaboration, broadening sectoral coverage and measures to accelerate the pace of development of the harmonized standards, and building on the work performed by the participating international financial institutions and the UNFCCC secretariat on methodological issues. The working group has invited the secretariat to facilitate and provide technical support on GHG accounting to the working group in future.

11. Clean development mechanism and Nairobi Framework Partnership

92. The Nairobi Framework Partnership[71] is an initiative that began with the collaboration of the secretariat with a number of agencies, including UNDP, UNEP, the UNEP DTU Partnership, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Emissions Trading Association and the Asian Development Bank. The Carbon Markets and Investment Association joined the partnership as a cooperating organization. The Nairobi Framework was established with the specific target of helping developing countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, to improve their level of participation in the CDM. Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement, Nairobi Framework partners have expanded the scope of the partnership to include providing support to developing countries for the preparation and implementation of their NDCs, with a focus on carbon finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, and for mitigation, by creating an enabling environment at the national level, regulatory mechanisms and carbon markets, including the CDM.

93. The Nairobi Framework partners, in cooperation with other organizations, continue to support the organization of regional carbon forums and events. The 9th Africa Carbon Forum was held in June 2017 in Cotonou, Benin, followed by a high-level segment with the participation of seven government ministers. Also under the Nairobi Framework Partnership

[71] See https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/nairobi-framework-partnership.

and in collaboration with the Development Bank of Latin America, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Latin American Energy Organization, the 11th Latin American and Caribbean Carbon Forum was held in Mexico City, Mexico, in October 2017. The 8th Asia-Pacific Carbon Forum was organized in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, the International Emissions Trading Association, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and held in December 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. In addition, the secretariat held specific sessions for designated national authorities on Nairobi Framework Partnership activity back to back with the Africa Carbon Forum, the Asia-Pacific Carbon Forum and the Latin American and Caribbean Carbon Forum. The Nairobi Framework Partnership conducted a study to assess the role of market mechanisms in supporting the implementation of NDCs. The outcomes of the study, expected to be published in 2018, have served as the basis for the preparation of the Nairobi Framework Partnership workplan for 2018–2020.

94. Furthermore, the secretariat delivered, through its regional collaboration centres (RCCs) and their partnerships, a series of capacity-building and engagement events involving approximately 300 stakeholders.

95. Through its RCCs, the secretariat continues to provide support directly to project participants and developers for the development of new CDM projects and standardized baselines. The centres are being operated in partnership with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, St. George's University, Grenada, the West African Development Bank, the East African Development Bank and the Development Bank of Latin America.

G. Transparency

1. Collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme

96. The CGE, with support from the secretariat, collaborated with UNDP and UNEP, which jointly administer the Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties. Two regional hands-on training workshops on the preparation of mitigation actions and reporting on them in national communications and biennial update reports were organized with the support and cooperation of the Global Support Programme.[72] The workshops were aimed at enhancing the capacity of national experts from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. In addition, through their representation in the CGE, UNDP and UNEP contribute to various elements of the work programme of the CGE.

97. The secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Support Programme, developed the *Guide for Peer Review of National GHG Inventories*.[73] The guidance document provides clear guidance for the peer review, to achieve higher-quality reporting, of national GHG inventory reports and national GHG inventory management systems through the use of quality assurance and quality control procedures in a non-intrusive or punitive manner.

98. As part of the framework memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 77 above, a four-year project on promoting the implementation of MRV arrangements under the Convention and the transparency of action and support under the Paris Agreement was agreed upon. The initiative will focus on two areas:

(a) Institutionalizing the MRV arrangements and transparency framework at the national level;

(b) Building the capacity of the national institutions, experts and relevant stakeholders involved in MRV and transparency-related activities.

[72] See document FCCC/SBI/2017/17.

[73] Available at http://unfccc.int/2607.php.

2. Collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

99. The secretariat collaborated with the IPCC in organizing two regional workshops[74] to facilitate the preparation by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention of their national GHG inventories through, inter alia, the use of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, including the inventory software, as well as the tools available to support the establishment of suitable national institutional arrangements to support the frequent submission of national GHG inventories. The CGE also contributed resource persons to the workshops.

100. The CGE, with the support of the secretariat, collaborated with the IPCC in updating the training materials on the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* on the basis of the materials presented at the workshops referred to in paragraph 93 above.

101. In addition, the secretariat has contributed to the work of the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories in supporting the elaboration of the *2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. The secretariat has followed the scientific and technical discussions and provided input to the draft chapters of the guidelines.

3. Collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

102. FAO collaborated with the CGE to present a webinar on the emission reduction potential of the agriculture sector. The webinar focused on reducing emissions and adapting to a changing and more variable climate in the agriculture sector and on reporting information in this regard in national communications and biennial update reports.

4. Global Environment Facility

103. The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency was established through decision 1/CP.21. Its aim is to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement. During the reporting period, the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency became operational and some developing countries have submitted project proposals to access the funds of the initiative, especially for the institutional strengthening of the transparency framework on GHG inventories and mitigation.

5. World Health Organization

104. The project "Promoting MRV of action in the context of assessment and reporting of climate change and health impacts" is part of the memorandum of understanding between the secretariat and WHO. The objectives of the project are to support developing countries with a view to:

(d) Effectively implementing MRV arrangements for preparing national communications and biennial update reports, including the development of health and climate change assessment using the latest methodologies developed by WHO;

(e) Updating national health country profiles in collaboration with WHO;

(f) Understanding the needs of developing countries in relation to integrating health impacts into their climate action.

105. The secretariat, in cooperation with WHO, will work to build the capacity of national institutions to support the reporting of activities on health and climate change. This will be done by updating the existing training materials on health assessment and climate change using the latest methodologies developed by WHO and conducting targeted capacity-building activities in collaboration with the CGE.

6. Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

106. The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency is a multi-stakeholder trust fund managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services, which supports developing

[74] See document FCCC/SBI/2017/INF.9.

countries in strengthening their transparency and MRV provisions through specific guidance tools and in-country capacity-building programmes. The secretariat hosts the co-ordinator of the Initiative and partners with the Initiative to ensure the alignment of activities on MRV and transparency within the framework of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

H. Climate knowledge: science, research and systematic observation

107. In the reporting period, the secretariat collaborated with a large number of United Nations, international and regional scientific programmes, agencies and organizations to strengthen the science-policy interface under the Convention, including the IPCC, WMO, the Global Climate Observing System secretariat, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the World Climate Research Programme, UNEP, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, the United Nations University and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. The secretariat participated in a number of steering committee and other meetings with partners to increase collaboration, and organized informal strategic meetings between the scientific community and the Chair of the SBSTA at every session to help to align their work with the requirements of the Convention.

108. The WMO *Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2017* was cited by negotiators throughout COP 23, particularly in relation to temperature, and gave an extra push for ambition.[75] At SBSTA 47, for the first time, Parties acknowledged the increasing ability to systematically monitor GHG concentrations and estimate emissions, including through satellite observations. Over time this will have implications for assessing progress towards meeting the Paris Agreement goals.[76]

109. At SBSTA 46, the 9th meeting of the Research Dialogue[77] focused on regional climate research data and information, and gaps therein, and the use of science to take stock of and assess progress on mitigation. The SBSTA emphasized the importance of the work of the scientific community and the IPCC in strengthening the global response to climate change.[78]

110. Collaboration with the IPCC, in its role as the primary provider of scientific information to the UNFCCC, has continued throughout the reporting period. The IPCC continuously responds to the various mandates and invitations arising from the UNFCCC process, including on preparing a special report on global warming of 1.5 °C. Other products in preparation include special reports on oceans and cryosphere in a changing climate and on climate change and land and the *2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*.[79] The secretariat closely follows the work of the IPCC and participates as an observer in its meetings.

111. The annual meeting of the SBSTA-IPCC Joint Working Group was held in November 2017 to ensure coordination and exchange information on the activities of the bodies. The Joint Working Group is composed of the Chairs of the SBSTA and the IPCC, other presiding officers of the Convention bodies and the IPCC, and members of the secretariats. The meetings usually take place during the sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

112. In preparation for meeting the information needs of the global stocktake (referred to in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement), the IPCC, at its 46th session, decided, with input from the secretariat, to establish a task group to consider aligning its work with the needs of the global stocktake. A call was issued to governments to provide views on the matter to the secretariat of the IPCC, including on the terms of reference for the task group.

[75] Available at https://library.wmo.int/opac/doc_num.php?explnum_id=4453

[76] FCCC/SBSTA/2017/7, paragraph 59.

[77] See https://unfccc.int/event/rd-9.

[78] FCCC/SBSTA/2017/4, paragraph 47.

[79] Further information is available at https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/.

I. Gender

113. The secretariat continues to strengthen its collaboration with IGOs to mainstream gender considerations in various climate change thematic areas, raise awareness of the importance of gender considerations and celebrate women's leadership and climate action. The secretariat is an active participant in the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and in the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. The secretariat's activities with a focus on gender and climate change or with gender-related components during the reporting period include the following:

(a) The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women supported the Governments of Costa Rica and the Netherlands in hosting an informal consultation on the development of a gender action plan under the Convention, also attended by IGOs such as CBD, the GCF, the GEF, ILO, IUCN, UNCCD and UNESCO, at which the UNFCCC secretariat provided technical inputs and support;[80]

(b) The Gender Day held during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bonn on 14 November 2017 included activities that focused on highlighting the economic case for gender-responsive climate action and provided an opportunity for Parties and observers to participate in a Gender Day market place. A number of IGOs, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UNDP, the World Bank, FAO, ILO and Sustainable Energy for All, collaborated with the secretariat in the organization of Gender Day and actively contributed to the events held;

(c) The secretariat continued its engagement with the inter-agency working group on gender, known as the GEF Gender Partnership, including in the further development of an online training programme on gender and the environment in collaboration with, among others, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNEP and the secretariats of the GEF and other multilateral environmental agreements;

(d) The secretariat collaborated in events organized by IGOs by providing technical support, including a regional workshop supporting the integration of gender considerations into MRV and transparency processes in the Western Balkan countries organized by UNDP and the Global Support Programme.[81]

114. The CGE has identified work on gender mainstreaming for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports as one of its focus areas. In this context, the CGE, in cooperation with the Global Support Programme, will prepare training materials to assist Parties in integrating gender into the process of preparing the reports and in reporting on the gender implications of their adaptation and mitigation actions.

J. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

115. The secretariat supports various activities towards the implementation of the SDGs, with a specific focus on the implementation of SDG 13, "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts", and is also closely engaged with activities and relevant agencies for the achievement of SDGs 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 15.[82]

116. SBSTA 45 requested the secretariat, in implementing its activities under the NWP, to explore opportunities to strengthen the linkage between its activities and the SDGs.[83] In response to the request, a series of activities that help to advance the SDGs have taken place under the NWP, as detailed in the table below.

[80] See http://unfccc.int/files/parties_observers/submissions_from_observers/application/pdf/883.pdf

[81] See http://www.un-gsp.org/event/regional-workshop-supporting-integration-gender-considerations-mrvtransparency-processes.

[82] See http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/.

[83] FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, paragraphs 18 and 19.

Overview of Nairobi work programme activities helping to achieve Sustainable Development Goals

Goal	*Target*	*Nairobi work programme activities*
Goal 2: zero hunger	Target 2.4: "ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems and that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change"	The secretariat, through the Knowledge Initiative (LAKI), has helped to identify knowledge gaps around agriculture and fisheries that hinder the implementation and scaling up of climate adaptation actions. The secretariat has hosted a joint event to elevate the importance of healthy ecosystems in enhancing climate change adaptation actions
Goal 5: gender equality	Target 5.5: "ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life"	The secretariat, through its growing network of partners, has compiled over 100 knowledge resources on gender-sensitive approaches and tools for climate change adaptation. Thirty-three partner organizations of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP) work on gender-related climate adaptation
Goal 6: clean water and sanitation	Target 6.A: "expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes"	The adaptation knowledge portal has a dedicated thematic page on water resources. The secretariat, through the LAKI priority-setting workshops, has helped to identify water-related knowledge gaps spanning 38 countries and six subregions
Goal 9: industry, innovation and infrastructure	Target 9.A: "facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States"	The NWP is working with its partner organization the University of Michigan and the University of Seychelles to evaluate the impacts of sea level rise and storm surges on Seychelle's critical infrastructure, and improve local climate resilience
Goal 11: sustainable cities and communities	Target 11.3: "enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries"	The synthesis report on adaptation in human settlements, prepared under the NWP, shares key findings, good practices and lessons learned on adaptation in human settlements. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as an NWP partner, agreed to collaborate with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and other interested groups to develop a supplement to the national adaptation plan guidelines on advancing the integration of human settlements into national adaptation planning and implementation
	Target 11.B: "substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change"	The secretariat and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability jointly held an event in May 2017 to catalyse climate resilience action in human settlements through knowledge. The adaptation knowledge portal continues to serve as a knowledge hub on sustainable and resilient cities
Goal 13: climate action	Climate action	The secretariat continues to facilitate knowledge-sharing for climate action. For example, at the 12th meeting of the Adaptation Committee, the secretariat presented its findings on the landscape of platforms providing technical support on adaptation to developing country Parties

117. The local communities and indigenous peoples platform, through its agreed overall purpose[84] and functions,[85] as well as through the principles to be taken into account,[86] can help to advance the SDGs. The platform is very relevant to SDG 13. More specifically, by facilitating knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, the platform addresses target 13.B, which aims to promote mechanisms for building capacity for effective climate change related planning and management for local and marginalized communities.

118. As an observer agency, the secretariat supports the work of the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators[87] on developing the global indicator framework for monitoring and reporting on progress in the implementation of the SDGs. The secretariat is the custodian agency for various indicators under SDG 13 and works in close collaboration with UNISDR, WMO, UNEP, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, FAO, IEA, WHO and UNESCO regarding the provision of support to the expert group, the preparation of workplans for the further development of indicators, and the provision of input to support the preparation of the Secretary-General's annual SDG reports.

119. In preparation for the High Level Political Forum 2018, to be held in July 2018,[88] the secretariat led the preparation of policy brief 15 on interlinkages between energy and climate change in collaboration with IRENA, IEA, the European Commission, UNEP and WMO. The document is a part of a series of policy briefs being developed to support the review of SDG 7 at the forum. The objective is to inform intergovernmental discussions by providing substantive input on SDG 7 and its interlinkages with other SDGs prepared through inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation processes. The development of the policy briefs is coordinated under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Informal Multi-stakeholder Technical Group of Advisors on SDG 7.

120. The secretariat, through its RCCs, is supporting work on the SDGs, in particular through participation in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, which aims to strengthen the policy and programme coherence of the United Nations at the regional level, foster and enhance inter-agency collaboration and provide a platform for exchanging views on major strategic developments and challenges facing the region.

121. At the operational level, the Regional Coordination Mechanism operates through six thematic working groups to focus on specific operational programmatic issues that could benefit from improved regional cooperation. RCC staff actively participated in three thematic working groups of the Regional Coordination Mechanism related to the issues of climate change. This forum provides an opportunity to partake in the strategic planning of interventions with other United Nations agencies. Other RCCs are replicating this practice in other regions, while also participating in United Nations inter-agency committees and task forces.

K. Climate Action Agenda

1. Engagement with non-Party stakeholders under decision 1/CP.21

122. Decision 1/CP.21 is the foundation for the work on global climate action in the formal UNFCCC process and includes several mandates, building on the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, to engage Parties and non-Party stakeholders in scaling up climate action.

123. In accordance with that decision, in April 2016, the serving and incoming Presidents of the COP appointed high-level champions: in 2017 these were Ms. Hakima El Haite

[84] See decision 2/CP.23, paragraph 5.
[85] See decision 2/CP.23, paragraph 6.
[86] See decision 2/CP.23, paragraph 8.
[87] Further information is available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/.
[88] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018.

(Morocco) and Mr. Inia Seruiratu (Fiji). The secretariat established an interim team to support their work and the work undertaken on global climate action.

124. On the basis of consultations with Parties and non-Party stakeholders throughout 2016 and in particular at COP 22, the high-level champions launched the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action[89] during the mandated high-level event on 17 November 2016. The Partnership creates a basis for enhanced engagement with IGOs and non-Party stakeholders in the period up until 2020.

125. In 2017, the Marrakech Partnership worked to promote and enhance climate action across the non-Party stakeholder community and to reflect this in relation to the UNFCCC process. Work was structured in thematic areas (energy, transport, industry, land use, human settlements, oceans and coastal zones, forests and water) and in focus areas (finance, resilience, innovation, and SDGs 2 and 11[90]). Related global climate action activities include the publication of the *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2017*,[91] the publication of *Climate Action Now: Summary for Policymakers 2017*[92] as well as a programme of more than 100 global climate action events at COP 23, including a high-level segment and high-level closing event presided over by the President of COP 23 and attended by the Secretary-General, among other prominent speakers. A large number of United Nations and other international organizations, such as FAO, UNDP, UNEP, IRENA, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, IEA, the International Association of Public Transport, IUCN, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Energy for All and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, play an active role in the global climate action work.

126. New commitments from non-Party stakeholders were published on the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action platform and enhanced functionality was introduced to track the progress of voluntary initiatives and provide an overview of the climate action events convened during the sessions of the COP. The platform now contains more than 12,000 commitments and is scheduled to be upgraded to a new version in 2018.

2. Caring for Climate initiative

127. The private sector has proved to have significant potential to contribute, through technology and finance, to the fight against climate change. The secretariat continues its engagement in the Caring for Climate initiative with the United Nations Global Compact and UNEP. The initiative seeks to advance the role of business in addressing climate change.

128. Under the Caring for Climate initiative, the secretariat continues to engage in the organization of a focus event on business. The Caring for Climate Business Forum provides a venue for business and investors to meet with representatives of governments, civil society and the United Nations to advance the climate agenda.

III. Regular cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations organizations

A. Activities initiated by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

129. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) is the highest-level coordination forum of the United Nations system. It supports and reinforces the coordinating role of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system on social, economic and related matters.

[89] See http://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/marrakech_partnership_for_global_climate_action.pdf.

[90] SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

[91] Available at unfccc.int/tools/GCA_Yearbook/GCA_Yearbook2017.pdf.

[92] Available at http://unfccc.int/resource/climateaction2020/spm/introduction/.

130. The secretariat participates in several of the working groups under the CEB High-Level Committee on Programmes, such as on the United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action, which represents a unifying vision for collaborative United Nations action on climate change and serves as a driver and tool for the United Nations system: to reinforce and operationalize the CEB Common Core Principles for a United Nations System-wide Approach to Climate Action: to encourage and guide integrated action in the areas of climate change and sustainable development: to identify and foster action in key impact areas: and to ensure coherent and, where possible, joint approaches to the United Nations' country-level work on climate change.

B. Support to the Secretary-General

131. The secretariat places high value on its close coordination and collaboration with the United Nations Secretariat, in particular with the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General and the Climate Action Team in the Sustainable Development Unit of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. The secretariat ensures good communication and coordination with the Climate Action Team throughout the year and provides input for climate-related engagements of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, including for their participation in sessions of the COP and the subsidiary bodies.

C. Joint liaison group of the Rio Conventions

132. Through the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, the secretariat maintains close cooperation with the secretariats of CBD and UNCCD. Since SBSTA 42, the secretariats of CBD, UNCCD and the UNFCCC have continued their collaboration, helping to highlight the synergies in the implementation of each convention on the ground and at the national level.

133. The secretariat, in cooperation with the secretariats of CBD and UNCCD, has identified that, while the goals and targets of the three Rio Conventions are different, the actions needed on the ground to achieve them are complementary. It is in this context that the secretariats of the three Rio Conventions are working to encourage transformative projects that integrate action on land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change and that are multisectoral (land, water, biodiversity, energy, etc.), focus on large-scale impacts and have a comparative advantage in delivering multiple development benefits such as ecosystem services, climate protection and increasing resilience.

D. Environment Management Group

134. The secretariat supports the United Nations system-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements, the Environment Management Group, in coordinating the implementation of the commitment to achieve climate neutrality of all United Nations organizations, funds and programmes by 2020 and other relevant issues across the United Nations system.

E. Senior Management Group

135. In the reporting period, the Executive Secretary was invited to join the Senior Management Group, a high-level body chaired by the Secretary-General, which brings together leaders of United Nations departments, offices, funds and programmes. It is a forum for policy-related matters, planning and information-sharing with respect to emerging challenges and cross-cutting issues.